



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Birch Hills

December 2016

2016 Municipal Election

Running for Municipal Office

The 2016 Municipal Election brought a very exciting and successful election. There were 390 voters that expressed their democratic right by voting in this year's election. The Town of Birch Hills would like to thank all those that came out to vote! It is great to see such interest in our municipal governance.

The Town would like to welcome and congratulate our newly elected Mayor, Dale Pratt and Councillors, Owen Stubbs, Barry Evans, Sharon Rolfes, John Herd, Keith Matheson and Graham Tweten. We wish them the best of luck during their term in office.

RESULTS

Mayoral Candidates

Dale Pratt	181
Randy Wojcichowsky	166
Alan Bzdel	42

Councillor Candidates

Owen Stubbs	319
Barry Evans	293
Sharon Rolfes	280
John Herd	268
Keith Matheson	268
Graham Tweten	266
Dean Braaten	252

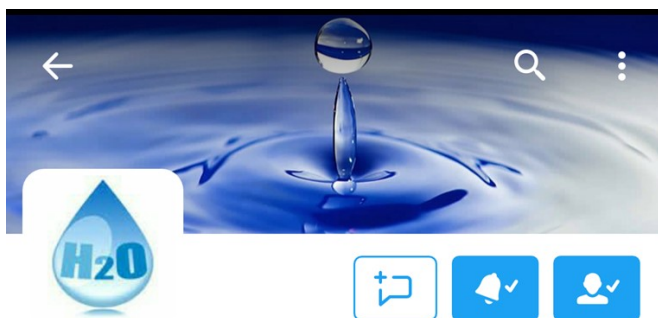
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Birch Hills Town Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a festive holiday season.

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year blessed with laughter, peace and love.

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Birch Hills WTP

@bhwaterplant

We will try to inform, educate and update our community on water issues in general. Read the blog at: bhwaterplant.wordpress.com

📍 Birch Hills, Saskatchewan 🔗 birchhills.ca

Twitter: Birch Hills WTP @bhwaterplant

The Birch Hills Water Treatment Plant is now on Twitter!



Follow **Birch Hills WTP @bhwaterplant** on twitter. Our goal is to try inform, educate and update the community on water issues in general.

There is also a blog that expands on the water plant's twitter account at: bhwaterplant.wordpress.com. The blog can also be accessed through the twitter account.

The Blog & Twitter Account—The hope is to educate our community a little bit on various aspects of water treatment. The Twitter account and Blog will be linked to one another. There are several reasons to do this:

- To be more transparent and take the mystery out of what happens at our water treatment plant.
- To try to quell rumours and false information told about issues that may arise at the plant.
- To give an honest explanation and facts of any issues and the reasons behind the problem and what is being done about it.
- To list chemicals used and what they do in the process.
- Links to various sites related to water and the regulation of water.

We hope you will find this informative and useful.

Birch Hills WTP

@bhwaterplant

Town Office Christmas Hours

Please take note that the Town Office will be closed on the following days during the Christmas Holiday Season.

December 26, 2016

December 27, 2016

January 2, 2017

Thank you and we wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season.



Holiday Hours

Our Municipal street lights are owned and maintained by SaskPower. They are considered residential street lighting and the Town pays power based on the number of street lights.

If you notice a street light not working, contact SaskPower at www.saskpower.com and follow the links OR call 1-888-757-6937 OR contact the Town Office

2016 Municipal Taxes are Due December 31st

Reminder that your 2016 taxes are due by December 31st, 2016.

Year end reminder letters have been sent. If they remain unpaid at the end of the year, they are considered arrears and 10% penalty will be added to any unpaid amount.



Birch Hills Multiuse Facility

Email Billing & Preauthorized Payments

If you would rather receive your utility and tax notices by email, please fill out an email consent form and return it to the Town Office. An email consent form can be obtained on the Town website or at the Town Office.

The Town Office is now offering pre-authorized debits for payment of utility and/or tax accounts! Payments will be withdrawn from your account on the 20th of each month. Please fill out a PAD Agreement form to sign up. This is also available on the Town website or at the Town Office.

Birch Hills Multiuse Facility

The need for a new building for our senior citizens club prompted Town Council to research options as to where the club could call home. They began to study the feasibility of using the old Co-op building as a new community hall, library, and Lions' Club meeting room. The Town purchased the old Co-op building in 2015.

A Multiuse Facility Committee was formed with representatives from Town Council, Senior Citizens Club, Birch Hills Library, and Lions' Club. The members consist of: Shirly Ulvild, Barry Evans, Owen Stubbs, Tara Garipey, Millie Rowluck, Joanne Bzdel, Todd Devenis, Duane Lowe, and Lorna Gjesdal.

With many volunteers most of the interior of the building has been demolished and we are onto our next phase of the project.

Fundraising events are being planned to help fund our project. Our fundraising goal is \$500,000; therefore we will also have to rely on the generous funding from members of our community and surrounding area. We are seeking donations, memorials, or the purchase of items needed to retrofit our new building. We hope that you will be able to join in funding the development of our much needed building. Donations can be mailed or dropped off at the Town Office. A taxable receipt will be issued for all donations received. Also, please watch for fundraising events.

We would also like to thank everyone who has already supported our Multiuse fundraising efforts.....a little goes a long way!



Birch Hills Curbside Garbage & Recycling Pickup

Due to the issues the town has faced with curbside waste bins being left on the streets, they have adopted a new town bylaw to help us resolve the problem.

With the winter season upon us, we are certain this will correct the challenges our public works department as met while completing snow removal over the past few years.

All residential collectable waste and recyclable material must be placed in the proper cart adjacent to the curb in front of the residence. The owner or occupant of the premises shall:

- a. Deposit residual waste in the proper carts;
- b. Keep the cart on the property until after 6:00 pm the day preceding a collection day;
- c. Place cart out for collection by 7:00 am on the morning of the collection day, and return them to their usual storage place on the day of collection;
- d. Place the cart with wheels against, or as close as possible to the curb, or in front of snow bank. Carts must not be placed on the sidewalk or snow bank
- e. Cart must be placed a minimum of 3 feet from a parked vehicle;
- f. All waste must be contained inside the cart, with the lid properly closed;
- g. No person shall place any explosive or highly flammable waste in any receptacle for collection;
- h. No person shall place for collection a bundle, package or other material beside any cart.

The Town will issuing warnings on your curbside bin and will be enforcing the new bylaw in the new year. Please visit the Town Website or the Town Office for a copy on the new bylaw or a copy of the most resent pick-up schedule.

Pet Licenses

If you live in the Town of Birch Hills, you are required to license your pet. Pet Licenses are to be renewed in January each year. The cost of an annual pet license is \$10.

Pet licensing is an important way for pet owners to maintain the safety and security of their pets.

The owner of a dog or cat shall not at any time allow the dog or cat to run at large within the town. When a dog or cat is found to be running at large, its owner is deemed to have failed or refused to comply with the provisions of the Town's Animal Bylaw.



The Town would like to thank the Birch Hills Community Church and Saron Lutheran Church for decorating the Town Christmas Tree while planning and hosting a 'Christmas tree lighting' with caroling and hot chocolate. It is appreciated by the entire community!

Business License

Bylaw #05/12 of the Town of Birch Hills requires you to have an annual business license if you own a homebased business.

Business licenses are required to be renewed January 1st of each calendar year. This includes homebased businesses of all sorts, direct sellers, transient traders, contractors, sub-contractors, etc. If you operate a business out of a commercial property, you are taxed commercially and do not require a separate business license.

The purpose of the Business Licensing Bylaw is to regulate businesses, ensure compliance with land use and building regulations, gather land use information and facilitate planning decisions.

We also hope that the database created when businesses are licensed with the Town will help establish our business directory that is in the process of being created. Please ensure your business license is current and the Town office has your most up to date information.



Municipal Council Meeting

Snow Removal

Back in 2013, the municipal council adopted a snow removal bylaw. The bylaw addresses the issues we face of snow removal onto municipal or private property.

The Regulations set out in Section 4 of the Town of Birch Hills Snow Removal Bylaw are as follows:

- a. No person shall push, blade, shovel, blow, place or deposit snow that has accumulated on private property onto any sidewalk, street or public place.
- b. No person shall push, blade, shovel, blow, place or deposit accumulated snow onto private property other than their own.
- c. The owner or occupier of property shall ensure that when clearing or removing snow or ice or other loose debris, that he or she shall refrain from causing injury or unduly interfering with any person lawfully using the sidewalk, street or public place and shall refrain from causing damage to the sidewalks, streets or public places.
- d. The owner or occupier of property shall ensure that snow disposal be undertaken in such a manner that it does not create a hazard or interfere with the use of streets, sidewalks or public places.

Any person found guilty of a breach of any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be liable on summary conviction to the fines outline in the bylaw.

Website

The Town's new website is up and running. Please visit our new website to find out information regarding the Town of Birch Hills.

You can obtain information on Bylaws/Policies, Minutes, Financial Statements, Forms/Permits, Taxes/Assessment, Utilities, and much more.

Please be patient while we work any kinks out that may occur. We welcome any suggestions or feedback of any problems that might show up or ideas to make the new site more user friendly.

Please submit any usable photos that can be used on our website to the Town Office.

Thank You!



The Town Office would like to update their customer contact information. As many homeowners may have discontinued land lines and are utilizing cell phones as their main contact, we do not have up to date information for some of our customers.

This will help the office contact you regarding any localized advisories, short notice water shut offs, leak reports, etc.

We are now able to generate leak reports and have had some difficulties contacting customers to make them aware of the situation.

Please ensure the Town Office has your most up-to-date contact information.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or if you have any questions.

Town of Birch Hills

126 McCallum Avenue
Box 206

Birch Hills, SK S0J 0G0

(306) 749-2232

birchhills.town@sasktel.net

Visit us on the web at
www.birchhills.ca

Regular Town Council meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Agenda items should be brought to the attention of the Administrator no later than Friday before the meeting.

Elected Town Council

Mayor Dale Pratt
Councillor Barry Evans
Councillor Sharon Rolfes
Councillor John Herd
Councillor Keith Matheson
Councillor Graham Tweten
Councillor Owen Stubbs